No.8
William Rotch & Sons
Nantucket.

via New York.(the Betsey)
pr Capt. Mesnard Watson.

Points of Interest.

Wm. Rotch's London address
Instructions relative to the boiling out of oil
Price of oil in England
Escapes from death by various seamen

#1 p1

London 2nd mo.,27th, 1786

Dear Sons Samuel & William,

I have just wrote you seperately, but avoided encumbering your private letters with business, that I might confine it to a compy* letter. my last to you was the 12 th mo. 14 pr the Warwick C. Mitchell, since which I have not recd* that I can find any joint letter from you, having in yr* private letters mention'd , I suppose what business you thought necessary. Mitchell went through the Downs the 18th of the 12 mt. without anchorg*, we had a fine Easterly wind,wch* blew almost without variation from that Quarter for fourteen days after he pass'd the Downs, which I hope carried him nearly up to the Banks of Newfoundland, after that we had a weeke* of very boisterous weather, which accasion'd many wrecks in the Channel & the loss of many lives; Brother Francs*, in the Packet, who were making their passage this way at the same time that Mitchell was on his way to America, thinks he must have had a good passage, (I mean quicke), altho they had Gales of wind to oblige them to lay too,-ten or twelve times, yet being from the Eastwd* its probable, the Warwick might run out severale of them; hoping he had a quick passage, I omitted having any insure* on Vessel or Cargo; hope if he is arriv'd this consideration will probably remind you of embracing the very first opportunitys to give me information; in my letter by him, I mentioned your loadg* him back with Indian Corn for Bilboa to touch at Cork for instructions if that article could be procur'd by barter;but if nothing is done I beleive it will be best to omit it. if a frt. of flaxseed for Ireland, or anything for this place could be procur'd, I should like it, but dont* expect it. I wish the Warwick not to be out of the way at the early time for the Brazils, but that you would get a very good Master Mate etc. for her, which perhaps cannot be done,or it may be best to be omitted untill our vessells return,unless that delay infringes on the early season which must be attended to, as the Canton will probably sail for Nantucket for want of provisions before Mores reaches (1st. page ends-O.L.)

[27 Feb 1786]

#1 p2

the Isld, if Uriah Swain bears the Carracter* which I expect, it might be a good beginning for him, to get a better vessell another year, or if you think best to make a new arrangement with Jonn.* Mores,B Clarke or any other, its not improbable we may want severale more good Masters for good vessells ~~another~~ ~~which in a~~ another year, which in a proper time shall communicate to you. I also wish you to get the Brig Sally, completed for Whaling & if timely I think Iceland would be a good prospect,if she succeeds to touch at Corke for orders respecting her oils,or to return home as you thinke best, as I have no fixed plan at present, I also leave it with you to send her on that fishery or not as you think best; if on that, you may inquire of Jonn. Coffin (the Old man Docr) as to the season etc.,who made a voige there befor the War; but whatever voige, get a good Master or she had better lay by; another thing I find necessary to attend to more than has been of late years, that is more care in boiling out the oil whether Sperm or Whale,to keep their pots clean, and the oil white which will in future make a meterial advantage worth the attention of all concerned, if nothing advantageous appears to employ the Warwick, till the Whale season, I wish you could employ Mitchell for the present, as we shall want him if I live to return; as it will be best to sell our Candles and realize the Money as soon as we can, if you find they have relax'd in their severity in putting the laws in execution on that Article at the French Isld* so as to render it prudent to make trials at the Cape or elsewhere, perhaps we could put him into the Friendship for that purpose, in this case it may be necessary to put the Cargo into his care, to put into some hands there, as it is probable it may not be so easy for a Master to act in a contraband trade, as some Mercht* on Shore. I hear Wall & Tardy are the best house at the Cape, but all these hints are for yr* consideration, and to act as you think best, as yr* situation will furnish you with more knowledge than it is possible for me to acquire here; if this step should not be eligible; I think it would be best to send the Friendship a whaleing for Sperma*Ceti; if the prospect to the Southward is sufficient & you can get a good Master, all wch*

(End of 2nd page-O.L.)

27 Feb 1787 #1p3

I submit wholly to yr* judgment;* but would have you keep all our oils, both Sperm and Whale that shall come into our hands, except there should be any brown Whale, wch will not answer our purpose, but brown Sperm if among our* own vessells will do at a suitable price. Am glad you omitted sending the Sally to the West Inds, though wish we could get Dupies debts-C. & D. has passed 72 the loss on the oil to our Cr. as they told me, and had forwarded you our Acct* with that included, I mean their pr* the loss which they had before refus'd till better satisfied ~~of the~~ of the propriety of it, they have also pass'd ~~U~~ U. Bunkers order to our Ct. By letters frm* Jos Hussey I find he has recd* two sums frm* Ingraham on Gs. acct* say L-94 & L-182 Lmd.wch* reduces the ballance to L-500 & odd without any Interest,I have wrote him to keep close to him, but I shall not take any other step at present every circumstance consider'd, nor would I have you pursue any other line only to request Hussey to press Ingraham as fast as he thinks prudent; I wish to know whether Folger ever redd* & paid abt* L-200 frm* the ~~Vineyd**on**~~ Vineyd* on the same acct*. I shall settle Enderbelys acct*., they are very friendly, & are I really beleive ~~sin*e*in*~~ sincere in rendering us any service in their power. The consumption of oile* in this Kingdom I believe will increase rapidly, I think I have discovered a use for severale* thousand Tuns hitherto unknown here, & great increase in the vallue of Whale Oil, the common price is L-21.10 & if I had some of our best kind I have no doubt but I could get L-28 or L-30, wch* occasions the hint I have given of more care in that respect, (boiling) being necessary. Geo. Folger I suppose is yet in France, I have not heard of him for a long time. We have no acct* of Zaccs* Coffin since the first, nor no answer to the letters sent the ~~Englis~~ Englh* Consul at Algiers on his acct*., one went by (End of 3rd page- O.L. Post by the way of Constantinople, wch* is the common rout by land, the ~~so~~* other to Giberalter from whence it was immediately dispatched to Algiers by water; I am sorry we can hear nothing from or of him, as he would be ransom'd immediately if their demands were not quite beyond reasonable bounds, many liberale* minds being dispos'd to give their aid.in some of my late letters

£30 Mar 1786
£27 Feb 1786

No. 8
* 4 *

#1p4

I mentioned Wm. Folger & his mate were both well, since wch* they have both (4 PGE 02)
experienced the like fate a second time, but in different vessells. Akins
is now here & a letter accompanyies this for his Wife, which forward pr* first
oppy*. W.F. has not yet got here, was at Reo Jenerio at the last Acct*.,his
escape was very singular. (by having a boat of his own), he shipd* all the
effects savd* of vessell and Cargo, in a Ship in which he tooke* passage with
four of his men, bound from Rio Grande to Rio Jenario, the Ship had a Bar to
pass near the first port, but open to sea, on which as they approached they
found the sea to brake* in a dangerous manner,Folger got out his boat, himself*
& men with a few of the Portuguese ~~sailors~~ sailors belonging to the Ship
jump'd in, clear'd the Ship just before she enter'd the Bar, on wch* she struck,
beat to pieces & all on board perished; the boat with her crew got safe to
land. nothing more done on the Hallifax petition, so much business on hand
that it seems laid aside for the present, but I expect in about a month to be
able to give you an acct*.of all that will be done & what we may expect. T.F.
drew a bill on me frm* Boston for L-100- & order'd one of like sum remitted
frm* Hallifax to replace it, wch* was done & reach'd me two days sooner than
the other, yet it is refus'd acceptance, have therefore got a orotest for not
acceptance; & when the time of payment is out, expect to be obliged to get
another protest for non-payment; I am sorry it has so fallen out, as I have
only money for our Expences, & must hire the Money to pay the Bill on me, which
I have accepted. you must ~~keep~~ keep up our remittance to Champion & Dickason (* 8 5 pge 02)
wch* I suppose must be in Money, & that in Guinneas of (wgt) 5-9 they pass at 5-8
here, but they make the scale turn so as to make it near 5-9 stand, but dont
send any untill the Spring opens so as to reduce the risque, & in a British
Bottom with a pass, you need not remit faster than it becomes due, as I hope
the Maria will be here timely for the Goods pr*the Warwick, with a good quty*
of Oils; perhaps if the Warwick is arriv'd safe you may raise money ~~enough~~
enh* out of her hemp with that sold pr* I.H. to keep up our back remittances;
but as you mention, collect what money you can& take care of it.- I think I

(1st)

[27 Feb 1786]

#1 p5

must have One hundred* Guins* sent on my own acct*. I wrote you some time since, desirg you would pay Bartlett Coffin Sixty pounds or Sixty Guinneas, I forget which & in his absence to his Wife, (I mean Samuels neighbor) on acct* of Robert Calef, & to take two rects*, recd* of Calef by our hands & forward me one as soon as possible, wch* hope is done, as I do not incline to take money here untill it is paid there. I have lately recd* a letter from Cousin T. Starbuck, Junr* with a particular acct* of Dartmouth, which was very glad he was so kind as to favour me with. I think I mentioned in one of my former letters that the Canton had 630 Brls., in the 7 mo. at the Islands and B. Hussey 1350, includg. this under seizure here. I intend sendg* out more hemp in the Spring as it is a good article for sale, shall also send some whale lines, as I think I can get them on better terms here, that we can have them made with us in our own walk. Would have you get two good frames for two Ships of 200 Tuns each--of 66-24--16½ & 4 let them be good and Cheap, deld* at Bedford & put in the Water, if G. Claghorn will undertake it, perhaps he may have to build if we build them there, if they cannot be got good & cheap, & with little money, omit them at present as molass or other goods must fetch such things, Cordage is not a bad article to barter with at this time. As (*8 6 PGE 02) I mentioned in one of my former letters, would have get a good Stock of Cooper Stuffs, for wood hoop'd and iron hoopd casks & good of its kind, I should be glad we had a hundd* thousand, & you may provide 20 thous. good Cedar Boards. Dont omit writing me for fear I should be gone, you may direct for me in future at No. 33 Grace Church Street, London, & if any doubts of my being here, put it under cover to T. Wagstaff, at as above, & mention to him if you wish him to open the letter on any occasion, if I am not here.-by taking time perhaps you may send some article up the North River to purchase Cooper Stuffs without money, as I wish to keep that for another use which we shall want it for & but we must keep a stock of Cooper Stuff on acct* of having it season'd.-I intend writing you again soon, via Boston. Interim.

I am with endeared love,

Yr*affectioate father,
Wm. Rotch.

No. 4 London, 2'd mo, 28, 1736

#1.2

My dear Son Thomas

Although I have not lately rec'd any letter from thee I do not construe it a mark disregard, or want of filiate affection, but rather from being much engag'd in business at sometimes, and perhaps at others a diffidence, or not being able to please thyself in letter writing, but remember when it is to thy Father thou need not let either of these considerations prevent, as he would willingly cast a veil over any imperfections of this kind in his Children, being desirous to encourage them in every good work, for my chiefest care is a desire they may so conduct through time, that when they are called hence they may have a hope of a place of rest. Now my dear son mind the best things, things that will tend to true peace. I hope I need not remind thee to be attentive to thy dear Mother, whose love labour & care for thee deserves all the return thou can make, live in love with thy dear brothers & Sisters; and I hope this is the case. We are now far seperated but I hope if it be the will of divine Providence to see you all in a few months more, when if (it) I should be so favor'd hope it will be a joyfull meeting, and nothing can produce that so fully in my Children as to find them growing in the best things. I have not time to add, only my love to Lydia & Mary, as I dont know that I shall have time to write to them now, and am

Thy affectionate Father
W. T. Rotch

[30 Mar 1786]
[8 Apr 1786]

No. 11.

To

William Rotch & Sons.

Merchants,

Nantucket.

To the Care Jos. Hussey
Merch*
Boston

c/o Capn*. Lyde.

£30 Mar 1786

NO. 10.

William Rotch And Sons

Nantucket

C/O Capt. Cushing

#2 p1

London, 3rd mo. 30th-1786.

My Dear Sons Samuel & William

my last to your were No. 8--2nd 27 pr the Betsy,Capn. Watson for N. York & No. 9--3rd mo. 8th pr the N. York Packet; our last letter was from Wm. 12th mo.9.-the time seems long that we have not heard from you occasion'd probable by the season of the year, but I feel full of anxiety for your wellfare.the Pilgrim from Boston is expected daily, by whom I hope we shall have letters; but if not I shall not impute it to want of filiate affection; which I know is sufficient to induce you to miss no opporty* of alleviation as much as possible the painful separation attending us; which I hope if life & health should be permitted is drawing to a close; as I wish to leave the Country as soon as possible; but that desirable period I think will not arrive untill the middle of the 6th mo--which is a month later than I mentioned some time past. F.W. Gayer is gone to America with his family to settle his affairs, I would not have any coercive means us'd respecting my debt, but to continue applying upon the former principle that mine should be paid out of this American debt; I cannot yet learn whether T. Folger ever recd* abt* L-200 at the Vineyd* for him which was to be paid me. I am glad to find by J. Hussey he had recd*two payments 94 and L-182,-(if I remember) since I left America. Geo. Folger sail'd some time since from France for America, I understand Bolyston made out pretty well from his Oils; I cannot learn the price, but has sent, I suppose for another load. Keep all our Sperm oils; I mentioned in one of my other letters of us keepg* the Whale oil also, but if it will fetch 60/ Lmd. pr Bark.perhaps you had best sell it.-would have you postpone all Hallifax matters for the present; Government is very desirious to get us directly to this Country, but I yet hope we shall be able to do better; I have begun, & am determined to try all Europe, (or rather the most probable part) for an opening for our Oils, in which I have a little hope of Success, though not a market equal to this Kindgom, yet such as will bear the expense of

c 30 Mar 1846

#2p2

catching, but as the matter is yet in Embryo, it may faile. (End of page 1)

I have sent to Newfland* for an attested Copy of the Delaware condemnation, as that with severale other vessells* I believe are recoverable, if I am willing to hazard an expensive lawsuit; but living wittness* must be produced in most of the cases; I shall therefor only leave it in train; & send such evidence as may be necessary.-Letters have just arrived frm* Benjn. Hussey of the 9th mo. pr Andw* Swain who has brt* about 110 Tuns mostly whale & Lion. Hussey had only added 50 Barls. since the last letter(7 mo.24) & the Canton no addition being the barren season, so that Hussey had only 1400 Barls. includg* the 85 Tuns under seizure here, & Whippy only 630.- but the summer or Spring just coming on. I mention'd in my former letters, your getting all our vessells* on the Whaling business, but this I would have on these conditions, that is if good Masters and Crews can be got., ~~and~~ & no disadvantage in the outfit & if they can go in proper seasons to the different fishery; if the Sally should go for Iceland, I think it would not be amiss if she should be successfull to touch at Cork & see if the Market will do there but this I leave wholly to you to direct.I think the risque of the Algerines will be too great to prosecute the Voige I propos'd for the Warwick of a load of Indian Corn for Bilboa, if you have purchas'd it, it will be good Article for the Whalemen. what I have mentioned respectg* a little prospect for an opening ~~f~~ for oils is not yet sufficient for you to mention it; as it may faile, which has already been the case in an article wch* I came near closing & would have render'd it unnecessary for our family to quit the Island, but it has slipd* by at present if not fully. The timber I mentioned for Two vessells* would have only engag'd if it can be done without Cash, as I wish that reserv'd for other uses. I wish to hear of Mitchells safe arrivale*, he went through the Down 18th 12 mo direct for Nantucket with 15 Tuns hemp & the other articles you wrote for.- I intend taking out a quty* of hemp so as to get ~~sh*ip~~ ship at command if I can-while oils is at L-40--& believe will remain; I mentioned in former letter the Maria having pass'd the Cape de Verde Isld*

[30 Mar 1786]

#2p3

about the 15th-9th mo.A.W. Swain saw several Whalemen on the Coast in the 12th~~**~~* mo. but little whale among them, have not seen him so that I cannot learn who they were. there are some impediments thrown in the way of the Hallifax Settlement;Gavernment here begin to view every encouragement given to Nova ~~S~~ Scotia as building up the fishery for the United States of America, by collusion o~~r~~ otherwise, so that matter is at a stand at present, any further than liberty for any to remove there that choose to live ~~at~~ under this Government,but they as I mentioned before desirious to get us here.-By a Bill just brt* to Parliament not admitting any Stationary settlements of Newdland* but to bring the people away in the fall; & the first arrivals in the Spring to take their choice of situations according to former,practice, I doubt will much effect Henry Tracy Interest as no person will be able to hold a permanent footing capable of being transferr'd* I have no doubt but you have often wish'd for more particular information respectg* the object of my coming to this Country, and I have as often wish'd to be more explicit on that head, but perhaps you have suggested the reason; it must therefore be still postpon'd. I intend writing again pr. Lyde who expects to sail soon, must therefore take this for the present.I am with endeared love to you yr* dear wives & all our near relatives & acquaintances your

affectionate father,

Wm. Rotch.

#3p1

Manchester 4th mo--8th, 1786

Dear Sons Samuele* & William

my last to you was pr* Capn.* Cushing a few days past, via Boston, but cannot recollect the date nor number.-- as our business in the generale * has not been so productive since our union as we hop'd, I have sometime since concluded, that all profits arising therefrom since our partnership, shall be equally divided among us that is One third each, & if it should please Divine Providence, not to permit us ever to meet again in mutability let this be sufficient to make a settlement in the way I have propos'd. We intend for London on the 4th day morning next, when I believe if no intervention now unseen presents, we shall proceed pretty direct for Paris, as we thinke* there is a prospect of introducing our Oils there, & remain where we are; but as we can give you no perfect acct* of this matter, I can say no more at present on that head, nor have I intimated our thought on this journey to yr* dear Mother, thinking it may be best for her not to know it, as it may add to her anxiety; but as I am here, I wish to search out every reasonable prospect; I have wrote to Benja.*--but France or Ireland are the best prospects. encouragement to come directly here is not wanting, but I think not best to mention particulars; especially as my most hearty desire is, not to be oblig'd to quit the Island. was it possible to consult you, which I now much want, there is a prospect that would effectually serve our family if I dare undertake it, but I want advice, yet it is impossible to have it, I cannot, with safety mention it, I mean it will be at the risque of opening the business. Dickason informs he has letters dated 31st, 1 mo. in answer to some by Mitchell, is so he must have had a short passage for winter. I have made no insure* on him. My dear love attends you with my dear daugrs*(yr* wives) in wch* Benj. joins & am your affectionate Father,

Wm. Rotch.

No. 12
To

William Rotch and Sons

Nantucket

pr* Capt. Biglow

#4p1

3 o'clock P.M.
London, 5th mo. 27th, 1786.

My Dear Sons Samuel & ~~Redman~~ William,

My last to you was pr* Capn*. Lyde 4th mo. 8th.

I have just arrived with Benjn* from Paris & here met your severale* ~~truly*accep~~ truly acceptable favours, down to the 4 mo. 6 frm* Saml*, (announcing Eliz's happy delivery of a Son, hope to have the same pleasing account in my next letter of my other daughr* Eliza. with only this exception, not confining it to Sex) except those pr* Calahen which were sent for me to Dover yesterday by express, but we had left it before they arriv'd, they are sent again this day to Rochester, where we have also miss'd them, but hope to have them tomorrow. Capn*. Biglow ~~bebi~~ being to saile* tomorrow morng*, will not permit me to make any particular reply; but must enter on such business as is most necessary to mention. I have had a most trying taske* in this nation with the Ministry; who were determined to give us no priviledges, but on a positive removale* to this Kingdom, I in vain insisted on the same advantages for Hallifax*, & for the Maria to be admitted here duty free; but they unwisely thinking to force us here if they granted no favours elsewhere, especially our family at which they particularly pointed. This put me upon seeing what could be done in France, though with great reluctance; there we found that nation desirious to introduce the fishery particularly the Greenland, & their Ministry wise enough to stick at nothing to answer that purpose, I mean, as to encouragement; I have not time to write you particulars, but intend doing it by th N. York Packet.- The Canton arrived at Falmouth about a week ago; about 600 Bls.- I believe I shall order her to Dunkirk where the Whale oil is much more valuable than it is here, & the Sperm I expect will soon become so, shall have her fitted out from there, for which we shall have a bounty on the tunnage of the Ships of 50 Lives* 43/9 Stg. per tun.- its probable we shall do the same with the Maria if she arrives safe, she had 280 Bls. when arriv'd ~~at*the*Island~~

[27 May 1784]

#4p2

at the Island, wch* was abt* 23rd inst. I have a letter frm* B.Hussey, 1 m0. 28th.- all well; intend home to Nantucket in the sloop wch* please inform his family, but please tell his wife not to looke*for him yet, as he has further business to do. would have you seperate all our White Sperm oils,& get the thin part put in good Shipping order, get also all our Whale oils in shipping order, it must come to Dunkirk. You may advise our people not to sell their oile* yet at a low price untill I write you again, the other matters you may keep to your selves untill* I write you ~~more~~ particulars. I see a prospect of our family remaining at Nantucket unless we choose to remove on acct* of taxes or someother circumstance. would have you get all our vessells that are fit for Whaling into that Business, & have them to saile*early, I mean * such as are for the Brazils; & let them go after Right Whales if they are more plenty than Sperm, which will do best in France, but they must be Carefull* in boiling it out not to burn it but keep it white & Sweet, & the Bone to be clean'd well on the Spot & let them possitively return to Dunkirk & fit out from there again, which will entitle us to the Bounty next voige, &·safety as to Algerines if no peace with them & America. these new arrangements will keep me here longer than I intended, but hope not longer than the 1st of the 8th mo., which from the necessity believe will be made easy to you, tho hardly so to me. I fear I shall not have time to write to yr* dear Mother pr* this Conveyance. I mean only for such vessells to come to Dunkirk as go to the Brazils, & if any difficulty attends, let them return to Nantucket.--Get a large Stock of Cooperstuff.-we are favoured with health.- I cannot enlarge, though I want to write much for fear this will be left, but am, with endeared love to you all,

(#12-2pge O. L.)

yr. affectionate father,

Wm. Rotch.

[7 Jun 1786]

No. 13.

To

William Rotch & Sons

Nantucket

To the care of James Parsons

N. York pr* packet

#5p1

London 6th mo. 7th, 1786.

My dear Sons Samuele & William,

I wrote you in a great haste, No.12, 27th inst. pr* Capn*. Bigelow for Boston under cover to Jos. Hussey & to yr* dear mother No. 21-28th pr* same conveyance under cover to ~~J.Hus~~ J.H.,but having but just then reach'd this City & the vessel to depart the next morning gave me no time to recite the severale* dates of yr*letters, nor make reply to the particular matters therein contain'd,both which I shall endeavour to do now, so far as is necessary.the letters recd* were as follows, viz:

2 frm* yr*dear mother No. 7-1m.27 7 No.8-3m,28
3 frm* Samuele* 1m.27 3m.29 & 4m.5
3 from Wm,* 1m. 28 3m. 14 7 3m.29
1 frm little Mary
1 frm* Jn.Elkins
1 frm* Jos Gardner
1 frm* Shut* Coffin

Wms. No. 9 via pr* Hallifax* has not come to hand nor the remittance of Brother J of L-290,-but wish it may take place, nor is No. 10 pr* the New York Packet of the 3d mh* she is suppos'd to be lost that whatever letters or papers were sent by her that are of consequence will be necessary to forward Copys though I hope to leave this Country before any can arrive after rect* of this. I shall make reply to such parts of yr* letters as appear to require it, & go through with the common business before I enter upon a detaile* of my proceedgs* in this Nation and in France, which I can now do with less caution than heretofore,--I am glad the Warwick reach'd you in good order & afforded you that satisfaction which we mutually enjoy at receiving the account of each others welfare. you can readily judge by your own feelings what a relief it was to my anxious mind on my return frm* France to meet yr* agreeable communication announcing the general health of our family,(as I have not heard a word from you for more than 5½ months.) especially my dear daugr* Eliza* being safe in bed, shall now be waiting with great solicitude for the consequence of my other dear Daughr*, in wch* I trust you have not faild* giving me the earliest intimation as I mentioned in my last Whippey

£7 June 1862 #6p2

was arrived at Falm. with 600 Bls. (though frm* his usual method hope will turn out 700-) 4000 lbs. Bone some Seal Skins, I believe 3 or 4000-- I have ordered him to Dunkirk. Mory has 280 lbs.,mostly Sperm, the London Ships in general about 12 Tuns each.- I note the sums of I.Lovels debts, I Om., & Sam Hero (~~--~~) am glad you have had a favourable winter it set very hard about two weeks after Mitchell saild, & abundance of Shipwrecks & lives were lost round the Coast.-I hardly expect the Massachusetts will make a paper Currency, & if it should be the case, I suppose my Notes on Gill mentiong* to be pd* in Silver or Gold will be a security, indeed I would have you refuse paper at any rate, if offerr'd, as it is on Interest it may rest untill my return if I should be so favour'd. As Geyer is gone to America with his family, I would not have anything but gentle means pursued with him, persuasions I hope in time will effect out purpose. I would have this method pursued as it will bear. U. Bunkers money is pass'd to our cred.Bartlett Coffins wife rect. with M.Mirick & Bunkers request to her son are all come to hand. The import act & the 10th section of the Act appointg* the Commissioners are not come to hand, perhaps they were in the N.York Packet. I have never seen the Act appointg* the Commissioner; I very much doubt it extending to any of our losses,but I wish our people to try them; I am clear & ever have been, that (#13-pg 2 O.L.) all our property was taken not only unjustly but illegally, yet I cannot see where to get hold of any person, without contending with the Government, which is too unequal a taske* for many of the Captors are dead,& the Government by a Special law has indemnified all of them from all Actions even illegale* proceedings in capture, I have taken advice & find much of my property was taken illegally; if I can engage any eminent Counsellor to undertake upon a Certain part, I propose doing it, but then we must produce living evidence; written will not answer; that upon the whole the prospect is but indifferent.-

I note Payne has lost action on the good Intent, but has appeald;

its a Scandale* to any Government to be pursuing an individuale* for L-300 or suffering its implacable officers to do it especially in a cause where * they had even no jurusdiction, but he is Saule*like, hunting David, may he fare as well in his pursuit with his tools.-A.C. & I.B-N.-The taxes are beyond all bounds; will our infatuated Courtiers have the folly to assess it & say still, we are as able to pay it as other Towns?-would have you get a good Stock of Cooper stuff-am truly glad you have seperated our Sperm Oils would have you follow that practice with all that comes into our hands. Shall endeavor to remember the Bark Beaver.- I was afraid either Benjn*. or myself must have tarried here this year, but it will not be the case, as there is no apparent necessity for it.

I am quite undetermined which way we shall endeavour to return home, the New York Packet seems to be the last resort; I should like to go with Calahan if his ship was Brittish, but I fear going out in an American Ship,though we had no allarms * this Spring of Algerines except about their own Coast, No late Acct* from Zacchus Coffin, I did hope & still do, that as he was directed under the Care of the Spanish Consul at Algiers through the request of the American Ambassador at Madrid, that he was to be releas'd that way. If hemp should be low,I intend shippg* a quanty*, perhaps 30 or 40 tuns,that perhaps may make us a passage in some good vessel, but having a new arrangement of our oil matters to make in France, I fear shall not be able to get away till the 1st of the 8th mo. Whatever reports you may have of a Treaty of Commerce between this Country & America, be assurred it is without the least foundation, for that Country is now viewed in such a contemptible light by this, that they must adopt another system, rather than attemping* to frighten this Country into any treaty. The treaty between this Country & France is likely to be completed.- as I wrote you before would have you send all our Whaling vessels that are for the Brazils early from which we shall probably reap an advantage, let them pursue the Right whales if

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they are easiest found & taken, & be carefull* in boiling the oile* out without burning, & keep it as white as they can, yet boil it enough to keep it sweet, also to clean the bone well on the Spot while fresh, and if they are willing to return to Dunkirk & fit out there the next voyage and return there again we shall have the Bounty, but if that cannot be done willingly, let them return to Nantucket. I am glad to find you propose C. Mitchell to Jamaica in the Friendship if you see any favorable prospect in getting him in safe & consistently, as I want him employd* untill* we fix him in a business which I shall communicate if I live to return. Upon a second thought I believe it will be as well for our vessels to return from the Brazils to Nantucket, as it is probable there will be time enh* for them to come frm* thence to Dunkirk, we can then seperate the Sperm Oile* & if they can but find them plenty will in that respect be more profitable than Whale. I have especiall* liberty to Ship to France(say Dunkirk) 250 Tuns of Oile* this year exclusive of what our own Ships or vessell* bring in this Season, duty free; now as we shall have but a small part by us of that quantity, if any of our people are minded to put in a quantity they may; but as it will sell better with the foot taken out, let us see if we cannot make some reasonable advantage of the oile* so shipp'd belongg* to other people; if they would let us draw it of and give them so much thin oile* for the thicke*, it would be serving both our purposes, except such as have Spermaceti Works that is the Mitchells I mean, who I wish to have no advantage of in that respect, if our people are minded to ship with us as I mentioned before, you may take in a quany* with ours on a frt* @ 50 Stg.* pr* Tun, I believe it will now ~~will~~* with some attention in introducing it, fetch a good price, & when introduc'd will probably always keep pace with the London Market, if the Bedford should be tight and Strong, she will do better for that Business than whaling, if she is in good orde Mitchell, perhaps would come in her; If that should be the case or any other vessell*, put in 30 or 40 boxes of good

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Candles; consign all to DeBauques Brothers-Merchts. Dunkirke, on the whole if you had rather keep our Oile* untill* my return if I should be favor'd so to do, you may do it, but I think best to ship it as soon as you can; & fill the vessel up with Stores wherever they can be put, what induces me to think this year particularly favorable,is the Crop of Rape seed from whence great quantity of oile* is extracted is likely to be very short.you need not mention that the oile* will come entirely duty free, as ours is now on better terms than the American Contract,therefore ours with those that ship under us may reap the advantage & d* not disclose that part for the present, the whole had best be shipd* under our house but on acct* & risque of W.Rotch & Sons & Co. let every quantity be kept seperate as to Mark and numbers, I am not certain whether the thick part of the Southern Whale oile* will yet do so well in France, if we have any you had better keep back the thick, I don't(#13-pge 4 O.L.) mean to draw it of, but those Casks that have a large proportion of thicke*, I have brot* the thicke* kind into use here & find it more valuable than the thin, but as this experiment is in the Soap business, it may not answer in France; I have been much deceived respecting the quantity of vegetable oils producd* in France,supposing* it had a great surplus to export,which I find intirely the reverse; as they are obliged to import large quantities for their own use; such is the state of that*** Article, that at a little distance from Paris there is a manufactory employ'd in extracting Oile* & fat from all dead Animails, that die of themselves or accidentalls, such as horses, cattle, & hogs, dogs, cats,etc., the bones are broken & with the Carcass all thrown together,& the wretched stuff extracted fetchs 22 Guineas pr* Tun* the prices of Linseed & Rape oils in France are now L-36.10 a Tun Common Genoa L-45 our good whale we suppose to answer better purposes than the Rape. (the Linseed being chiefly for painting) and the Sperm better than the Genoa; but I rate good whale at 30 lbs. & Sperm at L-40 though the Sale at first may be slow, yet I see it may be extended & I hope we may reap good advantages from this opening.- if I can find a cheap American Ship here, and fit for whaling, I

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intend buying one & fitting her out from Dunkirk, wch* with our other two if Morey arrives safe, will all have a Bounty of 43/9 pr* Tun on the Ship, this circumstance you need not mention yet, though if I live to return I shall open the whole if it should appear best.- I shall leave the remainder of the page to add such little matters as may occur,& begin with my proceedings on the generale* scale of my coming to this nation on another sheet.- as I mentioned before, I think it will be best for our vessel fitted out frm* Nantucket for the Brazils this year to ~~m~~* return to Nantucket, & then to Dunkirke*, when we can put in such stores as please & etc.- as I wrote you (13letter-5th pge of O.L.) by Mitchell I think, that I had taken much pains to get the Maria qualified to escape the danger of the Algerenes, & to bring in her oils duty free, what I had repeated promises of, but after detaining the Ship at Portsmouth near two weeks, which begun to infringe on the time that they should be on their voyage, & on consulting Morey with his mate and endsmen, they were all more willing to proceed without a pass than to lose more time; they accordingly proceeded. I then intended & expected to get an order from the Treasury to the Custom House in Barbados to have her furnished there on her return; there appear'd still a disposition in many of the Counsils to do something for me, but I found early that the Secretary of one of the departments set his face against it, as also against the Hallifax* Memorials, and although only a Secretary to the office, yet they generally have such influence over their priciples, as to operate powerfully in the business that comes before them; yet I was repeatedly assured that the oils taken by that ship should come in duty free some way or other which kept me easy in some measure for a time,& I fully believe it was then their intention to admit it, and also to give every encouragement to the Fishery at Nova Scotia, & I was accordingly as I wrote you notified by the Committee of Lords of the Privy Counsil that I should be called on by them at an early day, but as all the opperations* of this government are slow, those in power generally having to consult their

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own safety on retaining their places rather than the good of the State, I suppose they began to consider that it was necessary to feele* the pulse of opposition, & those concerned in the Whale Fishery to see whether these indulgences would go down, which occasion'd that early day that they had mentioned to me, to be protracted for more than four months, in wch* time I severale* times called on them, & at other times, they sent messages to me with the common unmeaning Court politeness of being very sorry that they had detain'd me so long,but that they would take the matter up very soon, these pretenses being cheap they were easily lavish'd out, & might have serv'd to have fed the vanity of one who had not so often experienced the little sincerity that so frequently accompanies the professions of a Court; in this intervale*,one of the Minority, a Member of the Privy Counsele, with whom we were intimately acquainted, & wished to serve us & to gave us the most liberal encouragement, provided we would remove to Great Breitain, gave in his thoughts on the Subject, & back'd it with such strong reasoning, with an assurance of being join'd by the opposition if they adopted that plan, he also advis'd to get our family here at any rate which would secure a large body, they immediately took it up on that ground, resolving to give no indulgence to our Ship but on a removal here; & to cut off every advantage in a removale* to Nova Scotia, except the liberty of settling there employing Brittish* built Ships & etc., but no more of our vessels* nor other property to be admitted there (those that were admitted last fall will be secure) I reason'd with them with all the little energy I was possess'd of, of the bad policy of such a plan, in discouraging the removal to that Country & endeavoring to compele* us to this Country only , assuring them that it would oblige us to seek elsewhere for that assistance & encouragement that we had reason to expect from this Country, & was so much their policy to give, but all was in vain if I would with my family come direct to Engd* we should have our own terms, which I beleive would have been the case; but that was a circumstance that requir'd deliberation, & consultation, & an evidence of

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living in the way of our duty, otherwise we could not expect a blessing to attend; that upon the whole, I took my leave, giving notice of our intention of going to France, that no just censure of taking any secret step should be plac'd upon me having from the first endeavor'd to act in an open candid manner, void of duplicity, that no reproach might justly rest on my caracter as a private man, nor be plac'd on us as a Society; assuring them that by the measure they were not pursuing with certainty as they suppos'd of obtaining this purpose, would fully defeat their own intention, as I said before, I then took leave & with great reluctance we went (that is Benjn.* & myself) to Dunkirke*, where we join'd Brother Francis and were accompani'd by our friend Francis Coffin of that place, we proceeded to Paris, were directed to proceed to Versalles the next day, where we were soon introduc'd to the Comptroler of Finances first, who was the business man, & had had the outline of our business sent him by our frd* Coffin frm* Dunkirke* before our arrivale*; that in half an hour or less, our business was all done & sign'd by him, our two Ships were admitted, as was the United States also; we have liberty *** as I mentioned before, of sendg* 250 Tuns of oile* besides what our own vessels obtain; and have a bounty of 43/9 Stg* pr* Tun* on the tunnage* of the Ships, fitting out frm* Dunkirke,* & returning there, with severale* other privileges which I shall mention if I live to see you, such is the policy of this nation, that forseeing the prospect of a desirable object, they decide at once, give liberal encouragement; having it always in their power, as suddenly to retract, but in our case we have the advantage in our hands, it will therefore be permanent for a time if it succeeds, and our family, may yet keep together if we live; we were then introduced to the Prime Minister (# 13-pge O.L.) (Vergennes) the Minister of Marine, with several other Ministers of State, where we were recd* with all the civility & politeness that the Policy of that nation dictates, we appear'd in our usuale* way with our heads cover'd, which being explain'd, policy directed their apparent full approbation, & though a singular appearance, yet every marke* of respect was shewn* us, &

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after a second visit to the Ministers of State to take leave according to the etequet* of that Court, we received the same mark of civility as before, I then most gladly set my face toward* this Country; with a hope that in all our transactions there the truth professed by us had not suffer'd and also with a degree of thankfullness* in being discharg'd from a burthen* respecting our business that had laid so heavy upon my shoulders since my leaving home, as at times to be almost in supportable, especially in the consideration of the seperation of our family in a removale, which on its former footing may not of necessity take place, yet by yr* last accounts of the State of things its yet probable we may be oblig'd to quit the Island from other causes, but may in that case I hope keep together; I desire all our movement may be under the direction of best Wisdom. I have much more to communicate, but it being now in the midst of the Yearly Meeting, & the Mails for the packet to be clos'd this evening must draw to a conclusion; fearing also that I shall not have time to write to yr* dear mother, which if so hope she will excuse, well knowing nothing but necessity would admit of the omission.I am with the endeared love to you all, your affectionate Father,

William Rotch.

F. Coffin, our frd* & assistant has a great influence at Court & is a deserving man, desire you would present him with a box of good Spermaceti Candles by the first oppy* when you ship our oil,write to C.& D. for Insur**** at & from Nantucket to Dunkirke,* with liberty to touch at an adjacent Harbour to fill up, & write them to insure it clear of the risque of Algerines & other Barbary Cruisers,wch* will lower the premium, & the risque on that head very little in coming to London vessels keep to the Northward after getting over Nfd*, Land Banks.

[28 Jul 1786]

No. 14.

William Rotch & Sons,

Nantucket.

No. 14.
* 1 *

LONDON 7TH MO. 28TH 1786 #6P

My Dear Sons Saml. & Wm,

I wrote Wm. a few lines on the 22nd Inst. to go by a Bristol ship for New Yorke* in wch* Wm. Matthews takes his passage, she was to have sail'd the 25th Inst., but I now find she will not saile* in less than a weeke* or ten days, that its probable this will reach you before that. Wm. letter of the 14th, 5 mo. pr* Tristram Barnard I duly recd.* & was truly acceptable, could the gererale* Packet have reach'd in time it would have been a great addition;but as it fail'd I hope to have it of a later date; could I receive the desirable account of my dear Daugr*, E. Rotch being safe in bed & in a favourable way, it would be a great relief to my mind. I have put off writing with a hope of having it in my power to acknowledge the rect* of some letters later than Wm. above mentioned, but Cushing who is expected from Boston, nor the 6th mo. Packet from New York do not yet make their appearance, the Mentor Nichols frm* New York arriv'd a few days ago, but I have no letter. As we are still detained much longer than I expected, and must wait Moores arrivale* if in any tolerable time to go out again this season, I shall communicate every matter of business that I can recollect necessary, with such things as occur that may appear to one agreeable for you to be inform'd of. The Canton Cargo or voige consists of abt* 26 Tuns Sperm oile; 6 tuns head matter, 42 Tuns whale, about 74 Tuns in the whole. 46001b. bone, (3000 Skins wch* Hussey had taken with him) hope the whole voige includg* Skins will neat ~~£~~*** ~~£~~-2600 Stg.* their long detention at the Islands after their Casks were full (#14-2nd pge-O.L.) gave great dissatisfaction, but we soon got Whippey & Swain in good humour, Whippey takes Jos.Wyer & his brother Coffin Whippey as mates I beleive jointly, we were very unwilling to loose Wyer, as he is a fine man for the business. Uriah Swain has gone out frm* here, Benj. Clarks mate, on great terms--~~£~~-18 & a present of 30 Guins. in hand, clear of his lay, wch* dont mention,he tooke* my advice in the case, as I did not then see where to take hold of a vessell for him, but was sorry the next day that I had let him go, as I could have taken the Yowicke (Lock Ship) I believe, at an easy rate,

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as she was not eligible for the Bounty they have put him (Locke) in a British Ship; Swain is a fine smart man, and I hope with the experience of this voige will be well qualified for the business, I have engaged him a vessell another year. The Canton I expect is near ready to take in her Stores, many of wch* we must send from here especially all her Casks, which we bought yesterday--viz: 90 Strong buls.- 126 Gs., each at 25/ aps. 90 punchions 84 Gs. each @ 15/-100 Lhd* of 63 Gs. each @ 12/ is just 100 Tuns amountg* to £-240-- 48/ pr* tun on an average (all Iron Hoop'd) wch* suppose is about 25% pr* dearer than with us-- & transporting our Stores from here will perhaps be £-30- or £-40 more. The Ship will go out with a Pass-- and under a bounty of 43/9 Stg.* on 170 tuns is £-371.17.6 10% of which is given to the Master is £-37.3.9--remains L-333.13-9 this will be good help for extra expense. We are in daily hope of the arrivale* of Moores, he had the last of the 4th mo. about 300 Sperm & 200 whale (500)-- was coming as far as 24 South there to cruise a while longer, but if he is not in soon, I fear he will be late another Season, which is such an apparent disadvantage that its hardly worth sending a vessell out unless she can go early, I shall hand you a list of the Southern fishery frm here, those that have arriv'd have got considerable (except one), though far short of sufficient for their expensive outfit, except those that obtain the Bounty; those behind had got but little by the last account, and but few of the Hallifax had got much, these accts* you have doubtless had before us; I am glad to hear the vessells of our Island have done so well, by acct* all full except the poor old Bedford which had only 80 bls. by the latest acct* here,though that was early on the voige. (Since writing the above I hear by Barney Ray, she had got 300 or more) The late Bounty Act I intend shall accompany this,but lest I should not procure it in time will give you a Sketch of it, but it is on British built Ships only, & Subjects living in this kingdom, Ireland, Guernsey or Jersey, & fitted out from this country. 3 Ships with the greatest quany**** £-500 each 3 more the next quy* £-400 each-3 of £-300 ea.* 3 of £-200 ea*

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3 of £-100 ea* & if out more than one season not less than 18 months nor more than 28 months-- 5 ships with the greatest quantity are to have L-700- 600- 500-400--andL-300, but all that are entitled to the bounty must have not less than 20 Tuns. these Bountys* are for 10 years. the Greenland fishery is large this year, though not so abundant as was at first reported; their method of announcing their voige is by the number of Fish; they fell in this year with great numbers of Small fish & got many,but I find the quany* of oile* is short of what was apprehended, yet a large quany* of this oil is taken there being abt*180 Sails from this kingdom, Scotland and Ireland— their Bounty is reduc'd to 3% pr* Tun*frm* 40 wch* takes place next year, I shall order £-1000 Stg. out of the Canton voige to C & S as soon as it in Cash; you therefore need not remit any thing to them. Capn.* Brown in one of the Whaling Ships from here was cast away on the Brazile* Coast saved nothing; none of the men were lost, with him was Zaccharias Swain, who now wants the money he pd* me for his father, & as his father had not taken it out of your hands, desire you may keep it,as I shall pay it him here, he being now in want of it.(have paid him £-25) Wm. Folger is here & well. I observ'd by one of yr* letters the frames of our Spermaceti Presses had quite given out; hope you will get a new frame to one of them, the other we had best send here, & have put to an Iron frame, I mean the Box contg* the Screw, with the follower & one of the Plates, with the exact dimentions of the width between the ports & the height between the joints, with ~~****~~* every other dimention necessary, I do not see any necessity for sendg the Screw pin, indeed if we could get it timely it would be best to have them both put in Iron frames, perhaps it can be done in our Country if so the import might be saved, but if cannot be done there would advise your sending one pr* first oppty* here to Birkbecke & Ball, Iron Founders, in London, the price they gave us last year was 16/pr* c. for the Cast Iron; but I can get it done by them for 12/6 pr* lb. the ~~****~~* weigt* about 3 Tuns will be £-37 ea. I now leave you to do as you think best; but we must not loose the Spermaceti loans as

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I hope if we are favoured to return shall be able to make more of it than heretofore; you may remember I hinted in one of my letters I then wanted your advice, it was on this subject; the Secret of----------being only in one person at present, who I was in treaty with for it, but the enormous sum he demanded could not be comply'd with, since wch* we have been in search after it, through other means, & believe have got so much of the principles, as to make some advantage though by no means equale* to him. Wm. may remember when we were together at a certain place in the winter before I left America, what Docr* told us he could do, which I gave little heed to then, & I hope he (the Docr*) has not thought much on it since.-am glad you seperated our Sperm oile* last winter as it not only prepares it for the French Market, but a profit is obtain'd, which would have you attend to in future. the unexpected opening in France in our way has a prospect of advantage, but it still needs our attention to get the consumption in a proper way, yet I cannot yield to the thought of staying in Europe another winter, unless we should not be able to get away timely for a probable arrival in America before winter; as I so dread that season on our Coast that I would stay long before I would attempt it; I hope we shall leave this Country by the latter end of the 9th mh.* I wrote you in some former letters requesting you would have all our vessells suitable for Whaling prepar'd for that business & have them well mann'd-& to have them to saile* early on the different voiges-altho I advis'd your sendg* C. Mitchell to Dunkirk with our oil in the Bedford if she appeared suitable, yet if a good Crew could be got for whalg* I should much prefer that business,the Warwicke* is the only other vessell we have in our own Quarter fit for the Southard I would prefer our vessells taking the advantage of the Right Whale Season on the Brazil Coast with what Sperm can be got on the way, but as the Spermaceti has become scarce, & the R. Whales plenty, I think the prospect of the latter for the French Market is to be preferr'd, but they must be careful in the boiling out to keep it as white as may be, & for it to

keep Sweet. The Falklan & Sally are good vessells* for the Guinnea Coast--the Sloops for the West Indies--severale of the London Ships are intended round the Cape of Good Hope after Spermaceti wch* I should also propose for our 8 Ships if they were large ones or if I did not see a better prospect of advantages to the Falkl. Islands another year, but this season it cannot be done to advantage.

If you send the Bedford on a whale voige, or she should not be suitable to come with oils, you may send the oils in any way you think best, only would have you provide a Masters place for Chrisr.*-if you dont send it in a vessell* of our own, get the frt. as moderate as you can; write to C. & D. to make insure* exclusive the risque of the Barbary States, as the premium is advanc'd by that means, when the risque at that season will be very little.- Please to supply Elviah Swain's wife with what money she wants; he has left £-18.18.3 Stg. in my hands beside all his voige* which hope will be more than £-100 you must call on her or perhaps she may not know that you will supply her. I mention'd in one of my late letters yr* advising our Friends not to sell their oile* at a low price, as the prospect then was very favourable in France, but the success of the Greenland Fishery has lower'd the price there much,therefore have them to take their own way but would have you send ours as I wrote you before to Brothers De Bauque Merch.in Dunkirke*, inless the whale oil will do well in our Country wch* I do not expect for the quanty* taken.-we had a prospect of getting more than £-30 Stg. for Whale oile* in France until the account from Greenland arriv'd, now I expect it will not be down £-24--if we have any on hand £-20 in America will be as well as 24 in France. The French Government are about opening the Channels for the consumption of Sperm and Whale oil and will I have no doubt effect it, as they are determin'd if possible to have a part in the Whale fishery; dont omit sending 30 or 40 Boxes good Spermaceti Candles in the vessell* that comes to Dunkirke* if we have the, but if not you need not buy them, send one of 30 lb. to Francs Collyn

(#14 pge 7- O.L.)

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Esqr. as a present.See that they are good.I wish you could engage 100 Thousand good thick 36 Inch Cooper Stuff up the No. River on reasonable terms & without paying money, as we shall want a quantity & 20 Fs.* good Cedar Boards we shall want, if taken in time perhaps may be also got without money. Whippey desires his wife may have a sum of money at Command, he talk'd of Fifty pounds Sterling, but I am sorry on his acct* as I fear it will not be well spent, but would have you supply her with as much discretion as may be leaving her content,as I dont wish her to have any cause of complaint, the money being his to dispose of as he pleases.—I wish you would acquaint his wife that she may be supply'd & if he has wrote her to call for that sum, you must pay it, as its nothing to us, only I wish frugality for his sake; least she should have no letter, please to inform her he is to sail from (# 14-pge 8-O.L.) Dunkirke* on the fishery, but to stop to Nantucket on his return. We have just now recd* a letter from Moores with the pleasing acct* of his safe arrivale* at Torbasy the 26th when he was setting of for Falmouth by land to look for Instructions, where he will find them directing him to Dunkirke*,hope he will reach it tomorrow or next day, as the wind is now fresh & fair; but he had got no more whale than I mention'd before (say 500 Barl.) not having added any for 4 months past. Shall fitt* him out again frm* there; do inquire if his family dont want yr* assistance. I knew nothing of the Act impowering the Commisr.* to inquire into Captire'd property, untill I recd* the acct* from Wm. but the time was out for making my Claim before I recd* it; a continuance of the act was made by the last session so far as for the Commisr* to authenticate the demands made, but a doubt remains with the attorneys, whether new Claims can be admitted which if I find can be done shall attend to it. In the mean time desire you would draw out Invoices of all the C argoes of our Several vessells* captur'd with our proportions of those that we had partners in. Add the prices of the vessells* to each Inve.* the whole, or part, just as we own'd them.—The vessells* being all too low.- shall enclose you a Sketch of the values to be put in the Inv.* and send them with a few lines

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under cover to Thos. Wagstaffe requesting him to follow such directions as I shall have left with him. I mean the invoices of the Cargoes of those taken outward bound, and a moderate value of the Cargoes of those taken on their return, so as to be within the value rather than to exceed.-- those taken on coming home or may be deemed as such are-- the Delaware, Joseph, Sandwich with Salt, (ditto or Sally) with Molasses & I. Portland & Temple. I have enclosed a Sketch but imperfect which you must regulate as well as you can, & keep an exact Copy of what you send; where the blanks are, I cannot recollect enh* to put down a sum, You must make the estimate of the returning Cargoes & keep them, but put only the sums without particulars in the account you send.-- I have drawn a bill on you for ~~L~~-13.6.8. Lmt* in fr.* pr* Barney Ray and one in favr* of DanieleCoffin for ~~L~~-26.13.4 Lmt. wch* please to pay.- the latter is for his father, Jonn.* Coffin and altho. he is in my debt, would have you say nothing to him on that head but pay him the money, he having been an old faithful man in our service & now very poor, I intend letting my debt stand for a furure day. The Southern Fishermen arrived are: the Captains Lucas-37 Tuns, Shielt (belongs to Enderby) 40 Tuns, Bennet 50 Tuns, Dad* Coffin 65 Tuns, B. Ray 50 Tuns, Elisha Pinkham 10 Tuns, Aikinson 27 Tuns, no account of any that are behind having more 30 or 40 Tuns & many much less, 8th mon.* 1.-- I am to have an answer this day on an offer I have made for a Ship, which intend for the fishery or to embarke* in for America, cannot determine wch*, but see no prospect of leaving the Country untill the latter end of the 9th month. I yesterday recd* a letter from Timhy* Folger for Hallifax of 30th--(#14-pge 10 O.L.) 6th mo. giving me an acct* of his having drawn another bill on me for L-50 wch* makes the 3d. vizt. 1 of L-100 wch* I paid & recd. one to replace it but was protested; 1 of L-120 wch* has yet twelve days to run before payment or protest must take place, but the latter must be the case unless I receive effects--the third one ~~for L~~* for L-50--was presented yesterday at 30 ds. wch* must receive the same fate unless reimbursed; he ezpected Bills to repay it frm* Bill Homes at Hallifax frm* whom he writes me he cannot get a shillg*,

24 Jul 1766

#6 p8

but is concer'd with him in two vessells and shall stop it out of their oil. I cannot pay them as I have not money to do it; I was vexed when I begun to read his letter, giving me an account of his drafts etc.; but was much disarm'd & became very placid after leaving the subject of the Bills, by receiving from him in the same letter, the agreeable & interesting intelligence of my dear daugr*, E Rotch. having a daughter. Hope both are well & that the next letters may furnish me with an acct* of her being recover'd. Callahan & Barnard are on the point of sailg*. The first takes his bag this afternoon by whom I intend this, the other tomorrow or next day, by whom shall only write short, on such business & requires mention to be made; shall not write by the next N. York Packet, whose mail closes tomorrow noght. The 6th moth* Packet just arrived and Capn* Watson; but no letters, no letters. I have not been able to keep to any proper method in arranging the severale* subjects of my letter, but have interspers'd them just as they have presented to my mind, wch you'll excuse. Not having time to write much more, nor matter to dwell upon, except some nationale* ~~affair~~ matters wch* I would have mentioned but must defer them. conclude with endeared loce to yr* wholeselves, & all near connections,

Yr.*affectionate father,

Wm. Rotch.

#62p

London 7th mo, 31, 1786

My dear Son Thomas

I rec'd thy acceptable letter of the 12th mo 26 last though not untill the 6 mo 12, it being in our family packet sent to Halifax & there long detain'd. I am pleased at the expressive language of attention to the wholesome counsel of thy dear Mother & older Brothers and Sisters, this I hope will be thy continued care, which will no doubt assist in rendering our stay here less disagreeable; my care for thee and the younger branches of our family is great, and must ever be so to a parent, ever anxious for the wellfare of his tender offspring, who I earnestly desire may be preserved out of the vanity, folly and wickedness of this delusive world, many are the snares that the enemy of mans happiness lays to catch the unwary mind; to draw it into the Chambers of death, be aware of him my son, and shun every delusive prospect that he may present to thy view, this conduct will bring inexpressible peace to thy mind, and thou will often have to bless that hand than hath preserved thee. I hope to hear from thee again before long; I fear we shall not be able to leave this Country in less than two months; though very desirable to go sooner, but we are favour'd with health which is a great blessing. I have not time to enlarge, only my dear love is to thee with the rest of our family in which I am thy affectionate

Father Wm Rotch

[c 6 Sep 1786]

No. 16.

* * *

William Rotch And Sons

Nantucket.

To the Care of William Minturn,

Merch**t****

Newport.

Favoured by

Thos. Dickason Jnr.

New York, Nov. 20, 1786.

Recd.& forwarded

By Gentm* Your Obedt* Servant

Bowen.

#7 p1

London, 9th mo, 6th, 1786.

My dear Sons Saml. & Wm.

my last to you was begun at Calais, 9 mo.1, and concluded at Rochester on the 3rd, which I sent from there to Deale to go by the Resolution suppos'd to be in the Downes, & as its not returned I expect it is put nnbrd.* her. I am pleased that I have been favour'd to get safe backe to this City, having cross'd the Channele* I hope for the last time at present; we are now making all the dispatch we can to leave Engd. The Coals and Grindstones with Iron hoops & some other Goods are on bd.* & the Hemp & other articles are forwarding as fast as possible. I am anxious to set off for my desirable home, although the season is so far advanc'd that I expect a rough passage, but hope for the best; Benj. is yet at Dunkirke* dispatching the Ships which I hope will saile* this day if not yesterday, when they are gone, he will return here immediately. I wish we could have had our Skins at Dunkirk, if any oppty* send them as soon as may be to De Bauques Brothers, we could have got fm.* 8 to 9 Livers* ape* for them a liver* is 10 Stg.*, wch* keep in yr* ~~**********~~ own breasts. we have a prospect of doing something with our oile* this I intend pr* Thos. Dickason Jnr* who goes out in the Packet for New York, we continue our business in their house. not having time to add only dear love to you all-

from yr* affe* father,

Wm. Rotch.

G. Folger's Cargo of oil comes to this Market. engage what good Cedar Boards you can not exceeding 50 Thousand if the price is reasonable, but no more Whale Irons, nor lances.

No. 12.

London, 30th Dec. 1858.

My dear Sons Basil. & Wm.

My last to you was begun at Calais, & No.1, and concluded at Rochester on the 3rd, which I sent from there to Paris to by the Revolution supposed to be in the Bonne, & as the not returned I expect it is put aboard.- Ther. I am pleased that I have been favoured to get safe back to this City, having crossed the Channel I hope for the last time at present; we are now making all the dispatch we can to leave Paris. The Coals and Grindstones with Iron hoops & some other Goods are on Bd. a the Bonne & other articles are forwarding as fast as possible. I am waiting to get off for my destination home, although the weather is so far advanced that I expect a rough passage, but hope for the best(spot). We yet at Rochester dispatching the Ship which I hope will sail this day if not yesterday, when they are, he will return here immediately. I wish we could have had our Coals at Rochester, if any copper had been on board as may be to the Belgium Brothers, we could have got them & to Liverpool for them & Ireland to do so, were keep in yet sometimes are brought. We have expected of being completely with our other ship I intend for Rome. Mistress Clark with Jack out to the Cattle for Mrs Clark, we combine our Duties to their Sons. not truly that to add only dear love to you all.-

Dear Pa's affte Father,

Jn. Nolan.

C. Nolan's Cargo of oil cakes to Hale Market. Perhaps she's good Cake Boats you can not exceed 50 Tonnage if the price is reasonable, but do more Whole Lorne, nor Lincoln.